GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3531
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2017
Coal Mining
Tarai Smt. Rita

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal mining adversely affects to environment in the coal mining areas and causes other negative externalities and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(b) the amount collected in different States and Clean Environment Cess during each of the last three years and the current year, State- wise;

(c) the details of the State to which this amount has been sanctioned and the amount utilized during the said period, State-wise?

(d) whether any State Government has requested to Union Government to share the clean environment cess with the State in which the cess has been collected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER, NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): Coal companies are playing a proactive role in environment protection so as to ensure that its mining operations are carried out in environmentally compatible manner. Environmental control measures for Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Noise pollution are taken concurrently with mining operations.

Impacts on Air, Water and land quality due to mining practices and their mitigation measure are given below:

Air pollution control:

Air pollution is controlled by regular spraying of water on haul & coal transportation roads by fixed as well as portable water sprinklers, Coal Handling Plants, all coal transfer points, coal & overburden (OB) faces, coal stockpiles etc. Other steps include fitting drills with dust collection systems / wet drilling, black topping / concreting of coal transportation roads.

Efforts have been made for use of more belt conveyors, rail etc. for coal transportation and to rationalize road transportation to reduce pollution, as per feasibility. Massive trees plantation in and around mines also reduces the impact of air pollution on neighboring areas.

Water pollution control:

Mine water is passes through sedimentation pond wherefrom, after sedimentation, clean runoff water is taken out for beneficial use such as domestic, industrial and agricultural purpose, after treatment to extent possible. Effluents from workshops is passed through Oil and Grease Traps and recycled/reused for dust suppression and for cleaning purposes. In major Mines, domestic effluents are being treated in Domestic Effluent Treatment Plants and in other mines in septic tanks.

Noise pollution control:

Noise pollution is controlled through the careful selection of equipment, proper maintenance and insulation. Persons exposed to high noise level are being provided with ear muffs. This is besides tree plantation between work places and residential areas.

Ecological damage control:

This is controlled by plantation on physically and biologically reclaimed mined out areas and on the OB dump areas, plantation in and around mines, road sides, township / residential areas, available vacant spaces and implementation of conservation plan for protection of flora and fauna as per EC. This is apart from the payment made for compensatory afforestation to Forest departments.

In addition the environmental protection measures are taken in compliance to condition of consent to operate from respective State Pollution Control Boards. Regular monitoring of various environmental attributes are carried out as per Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to assess the efficacy of environmental protection measures taken and if required additional measures are taken to keep the

various environmental attributes within the prescribed limits of the Regulatory Agencies.

(b): As per the information received from Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, State −wise data on collection of Clean Environment Cess is not maintained. All India Net collection figures of Clean Environment Cess during the financial years 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as under:-

(Rs.in Crore)

F.Y.	Clean Environment Cess
	Customs	C.Excise
2013-14	135.41	3081.72
2014-15	451.09	5393.46
2015-16	1172.27	12675.60
2016-17(April-January)	843.32	20285.27

(c) to (e): Information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House.

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